REQUIREMENTS FOR NON LOADBEARING MASONRY FIREPLACES AND CHIMNEYS PER IRC CHAPTER 10 & IBC SECTION 2111

ITEM	LETTER	REQUIREMENTS
Hearth & hearth extension	***************************************	4" min for hearth
slab thickness	Α	2" min for heath extension
Hearth extension		8" fireplace opening < 6 sq. ft.
(each side of opening)	В	12" fireplace opening ≥ 6 sq.
		ft.
Hearth extension	,	16" fireplace opening < 6 sq.
(front of opening)	С	ft.
		20" fireplace opening ≥ 6 sq. ft
Hearth slab reinforcing		Reinforced to carry its own
	D	weight and all imposed loads.
Thickness of wall of firebox	E	10" solid brick or 8" where a
		firebrick lining is used. Joints
		in firebrick ¼" max.
Distance from top of opening		
to throat	F	8" min
Smoke chamber wall	G	6" lined; 8" unlined
thickness		
Chimney		#4 at corners and 16" o.c.
vertical reinforcing	Н	
Outside Air (a)	J	Minimum 2 -4 inch diameter
		openings. Source of outside
		air must not be higher than top
		of lintel
Bond beams	K	#4 at top of firebox, top of
		chimney, and 48" o.c.
Firebox lintel	L.	Noncombustible material
Chimney walls with flue lining	M	4" thick solid masonry with
		5/8" fireclay liner; ½" air-space
		between liner and block.
Distances between adjacent		
flues	Not shown	4" min
Effective flue area (based on		Per Section R 1001.12 (c)
area of fireplace opening)	Р	
Clearances		
Combustible material (b)	R	See footnote and/or Section
Chimney termination		3' at roofline and 2' at 10'
Tight Fitting Doors	Not shown	Required
Footing		
Thickness	Ţ	12" min.
Width		6" each side of fireplace wall
	Not shown	3/8" - 1/2" openings
Spark Arrestor		Prohibited on metal chimneys
	Not shown Not shown	

NOTE: This table provides a summary of major requirements for the construction of masonry chimneys and fireplaces. Attached Figure shows examples of typical construction. This table does not cover all requirements, nor does it cover all aspects of the indicated requirements.

- a. The exterior air intakes shall not be located at an elevation higher than the lintel. The air outlets in the firebox shall be placed near the hearth slab
- b. 4" behind firebox, 2" to chimney and sides of firebox. Contact permitted when walls of firebox or chimney are at least 12" and solid grouted.
- c. Chimney flue sizes must be adjusted for the altitude; typically a 5% increase is needed for every 1000 ft above sea level.

